FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MAY 1983

Lebanon

Syrian Position — Syria has decided not to receive presidential envoy Philip Habib "because there is nothing to discuss with him and because he is one of the U.S. politicians most hostile to the Arabs," a Syrian spokesman announced on 18 May in a statement carried by SANA. Earlier, an "authoritative" Syrian source cited by AFP said Syria will refuse to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, "even at the request of the Lebanese Government," and sees no purpose in meeting with the Lebanese working group formed recently to step up contacts with Syria. Noting that Syria has postponed until 19 May an official press conference announcing measures against Lebanon in response to the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, Radio Monte Carlo said observers in Damascus believe the door for a Syrian-Lebanese dialogue has not yet been closed.

Senior Syrian military officials cited by the radio "categorically and strongly" denied reports that the Syrian Army in Lebanon has cut all roads from the territory under its control to Beirut and has also severed telephone and telex connections with the capital. AFP and Jerusalem radio reported earlier that the Syrians had barred the highways from Beirut to Damascus and Tripoli.

Meanwhile, Syrian media criticized the Lebanese Government with increasing vehemence: A 17 May Damascus radio commentary said those who signed the agreement represent a minority group which "cooperated with the Israeli invasion in order to secure a dominant influence in Lebanon." An 18 May TISHRIN editorial reviewed by the radio said Syria "has the means" to undermine the agreement, which was "prepared and approved by Phalangist institutions created by the occupation."

Al-Jumayyil Remarks — The agreement with Israel is "not an end in itself" and what is important is its implementation and the withdrawal of all foreign armies from Lebanon, President Amin al-Jumayyil declared in remarks reported by Beirut radio. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Al-Jumayyil also expressed hope that contacts with Syria will produce "quick results."

Israeli Position — Following the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, Israel and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding confirming that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon unless the Syrians and PLO withdraw simultaneously and that the agreement is "closed" and cannot be subject to further deliberations, Jerusalem radio reported. Earlier, delegation leader David Kimche said Israel has been promised that international pressure will now be applied to Syria to make it accept the agreement, according to the radio. Defense Minister Moshe Arens predicted that several weeks will elapse before the question of a Syrian withdrawal is clarified, admitting that Israel is unable to read the Syrian president's intentions. Speaking in an IDF Radio interview, Arens warned the Syrians "not to entertain any illusions" that they will be easily able to harass the IDF in Lebanon. He said Israel will dictate the scope of any fighting started by the Syrians. If it becomes clear the Syrians will not withdraw, Israel will consult with the Lebanese and Americans on the possibility of deploying Lebanese and multinational forces in areas evacuated by the IDF, he affirmed.

Arab Reaction to Agreement — Libya responded to the signing of the agreement of "shame and humiliation" by withdrawing its People's Bureau secretary from Lebanon and asking the Lebanese ambassador to leave the Jamahiriyah, JANA reported. Meanwhile, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali welcomed the agreement and said more than one formula could be devised to guarantee Syria's interests in Lebanon, "which must be taken into consideration," MENA reported citing an AL-AKHBAR interview with Ghali.

While Saudi Arabia respects the free will of the Lebanese people, the Kingdom is extremely anxious to affirm the need for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon "with the full guarantee of Lebanon's independence, Arab character, security, and stability," according to a statement issued by the Saudi information minister and broadcast by Riyadh radio. It called on the Arabs to pay "extreme attention" to relations between Syria and Lebanon in order to preserve fraternity and solidarity between the two countries. Saudi Arabia is seeking a "clearer and more positive attitude" from the United States toward Palestinian rights, and this must involve "serious pressure" on Israel to force it to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the statement concluded.

In a similar vein an Algerian Foreign Ministry statement on the agreement broadcast by Algiers radio reaffirmed Algeria's firm support for Lebanon's territorial integrity and national unity but also warned that there can be no solution to the Middle East crisis without fulfilling Palestinian rights.

Beirut Protest — One person was killed and several others were injured in violent clashes in southern Beirut between security forces and demonstrators protesting the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported.

Iran

An Algerian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani arrived in Tehran for a visit, IRNA reported. The purpose of the visit, according to Abdelghani, is to further expand economic and political ties between the two countries. During talks with the delegation, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani suggested that Algeria, Iran, and "those few countries whose political positions are close and who can hope to cooperate with one another" embark on a joint venture to draw up a "serious" plan and form a joint commission in order to bring about the liberation of Palestine, according to Tehran radio.

In another development Iran and Japan agreed to resume work on the long-stalled petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Khomeyni despite earlier Iraqi threats to attack the complex if work resumes, IRNA and KYODO reported. Iran will provide the necessary capital to complete the project and Japan will supply the technical experts required for the work.

Shipping Talks With USSR — Iran dispatched a delegation to the Soviet Union to attend the 14th session of talks on bilateral shipping, IRNA reported. The Iranian position on shipping in and further utilization of the Caspian Sea will be the subject of the talks.

PLO

Palestinian circles in Damascus believe that the dissension within Fatah ranks is still serious and could get worse, the Ash-Shariqah daily AL-KHALIJ reported citing well-informed Palestinian sources. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "categorically rejected" the nine demands put forth by the dissidents which included calls for the rescission of recent military decisions aimed at removing "a particular group" and the dismissal of a military commander accused of negligence during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The dissidents continue to insist on their demands, the paper added.

Jordan

In order to counter the recently "escalating" pace of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the Jordanian Ministry of Interior issued an order restricting travel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a statement broadcast by Amman television said. The order stipulates that people will be allowed to leave the West Bank only across two designated bridges and that movement from the West Bank to the east will be prohibited if the pass issued by the occupation authorities prevents the free return of the traveler.

Afghanistan

The Soviet Union has increased the number of its troops in western Afghanistan, BBC World Service reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad. Fresh forces brought in directly from the USSR have been used to strengthen the garrison at Herat in order to reassert Soviet control over the area in view of strong insurgent activity in recent months, the report said.

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Gandhi Urges Unity in Facing Nation's Challenges

BK171651 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, has asked the people to face unitedly challenges posed by political, military, and economic pressures on the country. Addressing a large number of people at her residence in New Delhi today, she said unless we are united we will not be able to help our brothers and sisters.

Referring to the Punjab problem, Mrs Gandhi said when the previous government was in power for about 3 years, at the center as well as the Akalis in Punjab, these people never raised the question of Punjab. When her government came to power they brought up the issue. When she asked them why they had not raised the matter earlier. They said these issues have been raised at a time when people are there to listen to them.

The prime minister said her effort has also been to fight injustice. But when one demand is met, another crops up.

Mrs Gandhi said the people are trying to fight on the basis of language, religion, and region. Unless we are all strong, we will not be able to do justice to anyone.

The prime minister pointed out that there are some people who do not want us to succeed in our endeavor. Such people are in the bureaucracy and in the police force also, though their number is small.

Mrs Gandhi said when we want to build a house, we require a large number of people. But when we want to damage the house, one person is enough.

Gandhi Writes Suharto on Assam Killings

BK180813 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0744 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Jakarta, May 18 (ANTARA/OANA) — Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi in a letter to President Suharto recently explained about the recent riots in Assam which took the lives of a number of Moslems.

Mrs Indira Gandhi's letter was one of the letters she had sent to a number of heads of state and government of member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization in connection with the confusing newspaper reports on the Assam incident.

The letter addressed to President Suharto was reported to have been sent through Indian Ambassador to Indonesia General Om Prakash Malhotra for convevance to the Indonesian president.

Indonesia is one of the permanent member countries of the Jidda-based Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Defense Minister To Visit USSR in June

BK171425 Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 May 83 p 1

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, May 11 — Defence Minister R. Venkataraman is to pay a week-long good-will visit to the Soviet Union late in June as part of the high level bilateral exchanges between the two countries.

The visit following the trip by Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Ustinov to India last year is being considered important by both sides.

This is the first visit by Indian Defence Minister here since Mr Jagjivan Ram's visit in 1977 and the maiden one by Mr Venkataraman.

During the visit, Mr Venkataraman will have high-level discussions with Mr Ustinov and other leaders, including defence analysts and military experts. The talks assume importance since Mr Ustinov is an important and influential member of the powerful Politbureau.

During his visit, likely to begin on 21 June, Mr Venkataraman will inspect some units and formations of the Soviet defence forces and see a few leading defence establishments.

Soviet Science-Technology Delegation Arrives

BK180858 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] A three-member Soviet delegation from the Soveit State Committee on Science and Technology is visiting India for a week from today. The delegation is headed by Dr (V.A. Kuzin), head of the Soviet external relations division for Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The delegation will chalk out areas of India-Soviet cooperation in the field of science and technology for 1984-87.

USSR To Assist in Developing Coal Mine

BK140905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 May 83

[Text] The Soviet Union is to assist India in the development of the largest coal mine in the country at (Jhanjhara) under the Eastern Coalfields Limited. It would also help in training personnel for open-cast mining operations.

Coal India has entered into two agreements with the Soviet Union for the purpose. The mine is estimated to cost 1,850 million rupees. Its annual turnover will be 3.5 million tons.

AFP: Students Warn Against Further Elections in Assam

BK151617 Hong Kong AFP in English 1604 GMT 15 May 83

[Text] New Delhi, May 15 (AFP) — Two Assam militant groups today warned the government against atempting to hold elections in areas of the state where voting could not be completed in the violence-rocked February polls, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

"The government will be held responsible for any situation which may develop if elections are imposed once again against the wishes of the people who resisted the polls in these constituencies," the All-Assam Students Union (AASU) general secretary, Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, and All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) convener Biraj Kumar Sarma said in a joint statement in Gauhati, capital of the northeastern state.

AASU and AAGSP have been spearheading the four-year-old protest movement in Assam demanding detection and deportation of an estimated five million immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal.

Mr Phukan and Mr Sarma said the February elections had brought a "catastrophe in the state and now normalcy has returned to a great extent only because of the efforts of the people."

The February elections, opposed by AASU and AAGSP on the grounds that the voters' lists contained names of "illegal" settlers from abroad, were won by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) party.

Bloody clashes between rival factions of Assamese natives, tribals and immigrants left a reported 1,700 to 3,800 dead.

PTI today quoted Mrs Gandhi as strongly denying that her government was responsible for the killings during the poll.

She was speaking to Congress (I) workers during a day's visit to the north Indian town of Hardwar.

Judge Appointed To Probe Punjab Violence

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Punjab Government has appointed Mr Justice K.K. Dubey, a retired judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, to probe into the incidents of violence and police firing during the Akali Dal rashta roko [road blockade] agitation on the 4th of last month. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that Mr Justice Dubey will also inquire into the recent incidents of violence and police firing in Patiala.

Meanwhile, the Akali Dal has agreed to convene a meeting of all national opposition parties to consider ways and means to defuse the situation in the state. The party chief, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, conveyed this to a team of visiting Janata Party and Lok Dal members in Parliament in Amritsar this morning. Sant Harchand Singh said a date for the meeting will be announced after consultations with senior party leaders.

Spokesman Comments on Khunjerab Pass Issue

BK171623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT

17 May 83

[Text] India is to take up with the Governments of Pakistan and China through diplomatic channels the matter relating to the illegal opening of traffic on the Khunjerab pass in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Asked about reports on the opening of the pass, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said today that the situation is being reviewed constantly.

The spokesman said India's position on the illegal occupation of a portion of Kashmir by Pakistan is very clear. Protests have been lodged after the opening of the [Karakoram] highway in June 1968 and also after the opening of the Khunjerab pass in August 1982.

The spokesman expressed a fear that, every further step taken by Pakistan and China notwithstanding, the position taken by India might make solution of the problem more difficult.

The spokesman also said that India believes in improving the relations with China and solving all outstanding bilateral problems, the most important being the boundary question. But India did not accept the Chinese assertion that the boundary problem is simply a legacy of colonialism.

Yaqub Khan Returns From PRC, Comments on Talks

BK171551 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Both China and Pakistan support the principles embodied in the resolutions of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference for finding a political solution to the Afghan issue. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan while talking to newsmen at the airport upon his arrival in Islamabad from Karachi after a 2-day visit to Beijing. His visit was part of planned visits to capitals of various countries before the resumption of indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva in the middle of June.

He said the Chinese leaders have again supported efforts by the United Nations and Pakistan in connection with finding a solution to the Afghanistan issue. He said all aspects of the proposed comprehensive settlement were considered during the talks, including the matter of international guarantee. Pakistan is fully satisfied with the talks.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said he held detailed talks with Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian in connection with a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue, which poses a threat to the peace and security of not only this region but of the entire world.

He said he conveyed the good wishes of President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq to the Chinese prime minister, who expressed similar sentiments. The foreign minister invited the Chinese foreign minister to visit Pakistan, which he accepted. The Chinese foreign minister will visit Pakistan within 2 or 3 months.

Cabinet Approves Joint Commission With India

BK180425 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] The Federal Cabinet at its 2d day meeting yesterday approved the amendment to the National Developmental Finance Corporation Act 1973. Under the amendment, the corporation has been authorized to provide financial assistance to private industrial projects and particularly industrial projects in less developed areas without securing government approval.

The meeting, which was presided over by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, also approved the agreement on the setting up of a joint commission between Pakistan and India. The Cabinet also was briefed on external affairs.

India's Rao To Attend Meeting

BK161531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The Indian minister for external affairs, Mr Narasimha Rao, is arriving in Islamabad on 1 June to attend the first meeting of the India-Pakistan joint commission. The commission has been constituted to promote economic, cultural, and scientific relations between the two countries. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan will lead the Pakistani delegation at the 4-day meeting of the commission.

Khalistan Movement Head Seeks To Purchase Island

GF171438 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 16 May 83 P 1

[MASHRIQ report]

[Text] Moscow: 15 May: An Indian news agency reported that the president of the Khalistan movement, Dr Jagjit Singh Chauhan, is trying to purchase an island in the Indian Ocean to set up the headquarters of his secessionist movement.

It has transpired that the countries which have granted asylum to Sikhs are being embarrassed by their political activities. Therefore, efforts are being made to set up a center on an island in the Indian Ocean. The agency reports that Dr Chauhan has also set up consulates in Canada and the United States which have also issued passports for Sikhs. The news report says that Sikhs are being given military training for the purpose of seeking the secession of the Punjab from India.

Briefs

Rice Export Deals — Two deals for the export of 90,000 tons of rice to Ivory Coast and Romania worth $18 million have been finalized by the Rice Export Corporation of Pakistan. Of this 50,000 tons worth $9.5 million have been sold to Ivory Coast. This is in addition to the 100,000 tons of rice worth $19.5 million sold to that country recently. The deal with Romania is for 40,000 tons worth $8.5 millions. The shipment of rice will begin from July. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 May 83 BK]

Wheat Exports Reported — Pakistan has become a wheat exporting country. It exported 85,000 metric tons of wheat last year and it is expected that between 200,000 and 300,000 metric tons of wheat will be exported this year. This was stated at a meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet in Islamabad on 12 May. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 May 83 BK]

AFGHANISTAN

BBC Reports Soviet Reinforcements in Herat

TA171533 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 17 May 83

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in the Pakistan capital, Islamabad, say the Russians have again boosted their troop presence in western Afghanistan. They say the fresh forces were brought in directly from the Soviet Union and they have been used to strengthen the garrison at Herat. As Ian (Howe) reports from Islamabad, there are indications that there are now more Russians in the area than at any time during the guerrilla war.

[Begin recording] The Western diplomats point out that there has regularly been a considerable amount of rotation of Soviet troops into and out of Afghanistan at this time of year, and it probably will not be clear until the end of this month whether the reinforcements sent to Herat represent a net increase in the 105,000 Russians already believed to be in the country.

Nevertheless, the diplomats say it is their impression at the moment that more Russians have gone into Afghanistan than have been brought out during the current rotation. They add that the scale of the reinforcement in Herat, a Soviet division, would probably be about 5,000 men, indicates that there are now more Russians in the area than at any time during the guerrilla war.

It is thought that the reinforcement may have been partly prompted by Soviet concern about the big airbase at Shindand, further to the south, where it is believed to be a great deal of construction work in progress. But, the diplomats think that the main reason is simply that the guerrillas have been extremely active in the area in recent months, and the Russians are now engaged in a big effort to reassert their control over the province. [end recording]

SRI LANKA

State of Emergency To Follow 18 May Polls

BK171527 Hong Kong AFP in English 1507 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] Colombo, May 17 (AFP), The government announced today it has decided to declare a state of emergency immediately after polls tomorrow for 18 new members of parliament and four local elections, in which observers tipped it to win half the seats.

The decision follows police reports of attempts to disrupt the elections, the third test of popular will in eight months, and create violence after the polls or after the results have been announced, it said.

After the presidential elections in October, President Jayewardene declared a state of emergency immediately after polling closed to prevent a possible escalation of violence between rival political parties.

Meanwhile Tamil militants in the north have stepped up their violence in the last three weeks in an attempt to disrupt the four local government elections in the northern Jaffna district, and force political parties to withdraw their candidates.

Polling Begins, Tight Security Noted

BK180853 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] In Sri Lanka, polling has begun in the by-elections to 18 parliamentary constituencies and elections to 50 local bodies. According to PTI, the mini-elections are being held under tight security cover. About 20,000 police and servicemen were called out to ensure peaceful polling. Meanwhile, there are reports of some handbomb explosions in some polling booths in northern Jaffna. A state of emergency is to come into force in Sri Lanka after today's polling. Three people, including two candidates of the ruling party, were killed in the pre-poll violence.

President Khamene'i Receives Kuwaiti, UAE Ministers

LD171139 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] According to our correspondent, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of foreign affairs, and Rashid 'Abdallah 'Ali an-Nu'ami, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning met and conferred with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Azizi, and the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait were present at this meeting. Shaykh as-Sabah conveyed the greetings of the Kuwaiti head of state to our country's president.

Mr Khamene'i then referred to the oil spill in the waters of the Persian Gulf and said: We are pleased to meet our brothers and to talk to them in person. We have always wanted you brothers to consider the Islamic Republic of Iran as your own country. Mr Khamene'i added: The oil spill is adversely affecting all the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf except for Iraq. You should pursue this matter seriously. He expressed the hope that such meetings will bring about good results.

The president finally emphasized the importance of good relations between Muslim countries and added: We maintain our good will and believe that sincere, friendly, and brotherly relations should exist between us. You should play an effective role in restoring these relations.

Ministers End Visit

GF171836 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — Foreign ministers of Kuwait and the U.A.E. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, and Rashid ibn 'Abdallah an-Nu'ami, ended their two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and were seen off by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi as well as the ambassadors of the two countries to Iran.

The foreign ministers held separate meetings with high-ranking Iranian officials during their stay here to discuss the acute environmental problem caused by an oil slick in the Persian Gulf.

Leaders Meet With Algerian Prime Minister

Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD172233 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Algerian Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, who is in Tehran at the head of a political and economic delegation, met and conferred with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon. The meeting was also attended by Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owladi; the political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheykh ol-Eslam; the deputy prime minister in charge of organizations and departments affiliated with the prime minister's office, Davudi; the Iranian ambassador to Algeria and his counterpart in Tehran.

The Algerian prime minister emphasized the necessity of strengthening and expanding relations between the two countries and urged joint cooperation in international organizations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the plundering of the wealth of African and Asian countries, especially in the oil-producing Persian Gulf region, and said: Today one billion Muslims in the world have become the best means for the industrial development and prosperity of the Eastern and Western blocs. Islam is the only thing that can unite Africa and Asia and the entire world of the oppressed. Referring to the conspiracy of world arrogance in reducing the base price of oil and the dastardly attack of the regime occupying Jerusalem against the oppressed land of Lebanon, the Majlis speaker emphasized the need for greater steadfastness against imperialist conspiracies and confronting the aggressors and usurpers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani suggested to the Algerian prime minister: Let those few countries whose political positions are close and who can hope to cooperate with one another in a joint venture draw up a serious plan and form a joint commission, so that we can engage in serious military, political, economic, and publicity cooperation to lead to the liberation of Palestine. If we can make a serious decision concerning this issue, we can turn Lebanese soil into the graveyard of the Zionist usurpers.

Emphasizing the importance of friendly relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Algeria, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his hope that relations between the two countries in the cultural, political, and economic fields and the exchange of technical facilities will expand more than ever before.

Prime Minister Musavi

LD172248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The prime minister of the Democratic and People's Republic of Algeria who is in Iran at the head of a delegation this evening met and conferred with Prime minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

During this meeting, the prime minister welcomed the Algerian prime minister and his accompanying delegation. He said that this trip will be an effective step in the expansion of relations between the two countries. Emphasizing the Islamic Republic of Iran's neither East nor West policy, Musavi said: It is natural that this policy is part of the essential identity of our revolution. From this stance, we stretch our hand of friendship toward all progressive Arab countries, and we stand beside these countries in the fight against imperialism and Zionism. Referring to the vast conspiracies of Zionism and U.S. imperialism in Lebanon, the prime minister warned of the conspiracies being hatched against the Arab nation and the great Islamic ummah, saying: Today more than ever before we are prepared to stand beside our close friends to fight against difficulties and conspiracies.

Delegation Departs for Shipping Talks in USSR
LD180132 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Rasht, Caspian region, May 17 IRNA — An Iranian delegation comprising officials of the ports and shipping organisation left for the Soviet Union this morning to attend Irano-Soviet 14th shipping session.

The Iranian delegation would outline Iran's stance in shipping in the Caspian Sea and would hold talks with the Soviet officials on further utilisation of the Caspian waters.

Khomeyni Receives Islamic Court Head 17 May
GF171824 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, received the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Courts of Tehran, Ayatollah Mohammadi Gilani, this morning.

In this meeting, Ayatollah Gilani presented a report to the imam on the situations of the courts and prisons.

Ayatollah Montazeri Meets With Tabriz Official
GF171830 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA — Members of the central secretariat of the Friday prayers all over the country called on the eminent theologian Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and presented him with a repdort on the secretariat's accomplishments. Ayatollah Montazeri called on the secretariat to do their utmost to carry out the Friday prayers which he said had the greatest role in preserving the country's Islamic Revolution.

Also on Monday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi, Tabriz Majlis deputy; Sheykh Mohammad 'Ali Fayz, the representative of the Ayatollah in Az-Zahra University, and the Friday prayers leader of Borujeh, Azna, Shadegan, Genaveh Port; and the head of the Aghajari Theological School met and conferred separately with Ayatollah Montazeri.

Radio Iran on Islamic Party Expulsion, Membership
GF171626 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 13..0 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Jalaleddin Farsi, whose Afghan name is Hekmatollah Barancheshmeh, has been expelled from the Islamic Republican Party [IRP] in order to prove that the party has no leftist tilt.

Hekmatollah Barancheshmeh who is a suspicious foreign element in Khomeyni's ruling clique was the IRP ideologue and its presidential candidate. He implemented the plan to close the Iranian universities with 'Abdolkarim Sorush, Habibi, and Dr Shari'atmadari.

During balloting in the first IRP congress, 30 individuals were selected for membership in the Central Committee. According to our reports 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the largest number of votes. Aside from Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, other members are: Rabbani-Amlashi, Mullah 'Ali Movahhedi, and 'Abbas Va'ez Tabasi. All of them are among the most well-known imami faction figures. The IRP's Central Committee elections showed that the leftist religious figures are trying again to reform the party into a [word indistinct] leftist religious organization to oppose the hojjatiyeh faction.

In a reply to the faction of the regime that is advocating the dissolution of the IRP and states that there is no need for a party in an Islamic regime, Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that he intends to continue his work in the party.

Radio Iran Maintains 'Religious Leftist' Still Strong
GF081910 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Following the operation against the Tudeh Party leaders and the announcement of the escape of some to Afghanistan, it has been said that a number of Afghan mullahs and theological students residing in Qom, who received grants from the Qom theological center, have been in contact with the Tudeh Party for some time and two of them suddenly disappeared on the day of Kianuri's arrest on 6 February. A large number of Afghan mullahs and theological students, some of whom were previously members of the Afghan Communist Party were residents of Qom for some time without paying any attention to regulations and laws on foreign nationals. They enjoyed the financial and political support of the society of Qom's theologians.

A western correspondent who recently visited Iran at the invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic wrote that the council of administration of Qom's theological center which purged, to the last man, all the members of the hojjatiyeh faction from the center following a series of power struggles, is one of the most power political organizations of the Islamic Republic. It is not Jamaran which issue orders to the theological society, rather it is the society that dictates its orders to Jamaran. The society which has taken the Afghan students and mullahs under its wings is run by a council and its fixed members number 200. Azari-Qomi, Jannati, Hajj Mirza 'ali Meshkini, Sheykh Mo'men-Qomi, Ahmad 'Ali Gerami, Ja'fari-Gilani, 'Aba'i-Khorasani, and Duzduzani are the most influential imam-line members of this council and have managed to completely capture the clerical rule.

The same correspondent added: The society does not put up with any religious tendency which is outside the leftist limits of the imam's line faction. It is because of this that a number of clergymen such as Seyyed Mohammad Shirazi, Sheykh Mohammad A'lami, Ayatollah Khaz'ali, Nazer Makraem-Shirazi, and Sheykh Ja'far Sobhani were hurriedly expelled from this organization for their opposition to the religious leftists. Even Hojjat ol-Eslam Soltani, Sadeq Tabataba'i's father, was not immune to this extensive purge.

The view that the dissolution of the Tudeh Party has disarmed the imam's line faction is wishful thinking. Talk about the victory of the hojjatiyeh faction is too hurried judgment. The leftist religious faction, having occupied all key posts, has even

obstructed Khomeyni. Its present silence does not mean a retreat in any way. It currently is planning to fill in the vaccum left by the Tudeh Party with a decisive and unexpected act and thus end the fairy tale of hojjatiyeh's victory. So long as the theological society is controlling a large part of the Majlis, the largest part of the government including the ministries of guidance and endowment, radio, television, KEYHAN, ETTELA'AT, and the entire propaganda machinery of the Islamic Republic, talk about the defeat of the religious leftists in the Islamic Republic is foolish.

It is possible that the hojjatiyeh faction can deal the final blow against the leftist religious faction. They start a new war, in which there will be not a glimmer of victory, and enter the arena with the slogan "end to the war" which under the present tiring circumstances will enjoy the support of the army and a part of the Guards Corps.

Embassies Reportedly Hand Over Tudeh Members

GF171630 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Two members of the Tudeh Party who apparently had escaped from northern Iran to Tehran and had sought asylum in the GDR Embassy in Tehran were handed over to guards by embassy officials yesterday afternoon. The Bulgarian Embassy in Tehran had previously handed over a Tudeh'i who had sought asylum there to security members of the Islamic regime.

Western political observers, who are keenly following the present events in Iran, have stated that the actions taken by the Bulgarian and GDR Embassies have strengthened the opinion that the attempt to crush the Tudeh Party, which will probably result in the execution of only two of the party's leaders, was probably staged with Moscow's consent.

There is a possibility that the name of Gholamyahya Daneshian who is apparently a protoge of Aliyev, former head of the security service of Soviet Azerbaijan and a current member of the Supreme Soviet, will be on the list of Tudeh'is who will receive heavy punishment.

Clandestine Radios Report Continuing Arrests

Feda'iyan-e Khalq

GF081844 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Following the dissolution of the Tudeh Party of Iran, the communist Feda'iyan-e Khalq organization and the Democratic Union of Iran have been dissolved and the Tehran regime authorities have asked the members of these two communist organizations to report to the Guards Corps headquarters and judicial authorities with photostat copies of their ID cards and photographs and to report their whereabouts.

The members of the communist Feda'iyan-e Khalq — major wing which cooperated with the Iranian Tudeh Party — have been charged with subversion and collusion in plans for toppling the government in Iran. The major wing of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq along with the communist members of the Democratic Union have been cooperating with the Khomeyni regime during its 4 years in office in Iran.

Following the arrests of the members of the communist Tudeh Party in Iran, which has been declared traitorous and defunct, the arrest of members of the major wing of the Feda'iyan-e Khalq continues.

Trotskyite Party

GF171610 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Following the widespread arrests over the past few days of thousands of people who oppose the regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni under the pretext of their membership in or support for the Tudeh Party, the leaders and members of Iran's Troskyite Party also have been arrested and imprisoned.

Trotskyites, irrespective of their opposition to the Tudeh Party, were among the supporters of the Khomeyni regime and during 4 years of political activity in the Islamic Republic always supported Khomeyni. This happened while the Tudeh Party and the organs of the Islamic Republic referred to them as an American minigroup because the founders of this small and noninfluential party were a number of leftist Iranian intellectuals who came to Iran from the United States at the start of the revolution.

According to observers, the arrest of the Trotskyites, these staunch enemies of the Tudeh Party, shows that the operation to hunt the opposition which started recently does not only involve the Tudeh'is but that it has more extensive dimensions and that the regime's propaganda concerning the uprooting of the Tudeh Party was a cover for the new criminal actions of the regime. These observers note that for each Tudeh'i, dozens of opposition and even those who support the regime ideologically — referred to by the observers as conditional supporters — have been arrested and imprisoned. Babak Zahra'i, the head of the Political Bureau of the Trotskyite Party — a party which was formed following the establishment of the Islamic Republic in Iran — has been arrested together with his colleagues.

Diplomatic experts in Iran say that suffocation has again overtaken the Islamic Republic in an extensive and unprecedented manner and that terror has created an unbearable atmosphere in the Islamic Republic. Listening to and controlling domestic and foreign telephone lines has again been heavily resumed and the security apparatus attached to the prime minister's office has dispatched units to the Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Ministry to control letters and parcels.

Control and investigation units have been created by the politico-ideological departments in the Armed Forces and following a strongly-worded and threatening circular sent to the universities, another group of students have been arrested. According to university sources, the group of students who had been expelled following the start of several courses for having political leanings have been arrested and imprisoned by the Guards Corps. Accord-

ing to the same sources, the major number of arrests occurred during the night and the arrested were not allowed to put on clothes or shoes. Diplomatic sources state that considering the fact that even foreign embassies in Tehran have been attacked by armed members of the regime in the past few days, it is quite easy to understand the terrible shadow of suffocation in the Islamic Republic.

An Arab diplomat in Tehran said that he has never seen such a degree of terror in foreign diplomats in Iran. While there is not the least excuse to feel secure, the committee to implement the 8-point decree of Ruhollah Khomeyni apparently continues its work under the chairmanship of Musavi-Ardabili. According to the same Arab diplomat, security or even the thought of it is a dream which will never come true in the Islamic Republic.

It has also been reported that the regime is not as active in uprooting the Tudeh Party as it is in crushing the people. This shows that the anti-Tudeh propaganda has been used as an excuse to crush the general population. The experts consider this a sign of the victory of the imami faction and the defeat of hojjatiyeh and note that the current operations to destroy the Tudeh Party are being overshadowed by operations to crush the populace. The imamis are trying to nullify the hojjatiyeh's program to destroy the Tudeh Party by taking the initiative.

Experts state that the claim by the Tudeh propaganda machinery that the hojjatiyeh faction will never be able to destroy the Tudeh Party in the Islamic Republic is not all that impossible since the imamis are again standing behind the Tudeh Party by mobilizing all their forces. Their leader, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, noted the innocence of Tudeh Party members during the last Friday sermon, saying that excluding a few of its leaders the rest will received amnesty. The remarks by the acting Tehran Friday prayer leader on the innocence of Tudeh Party members whose number has been estimated to be 5,000-10,000 has assured the Soviets that the imamis have again taken the initiative and that there is no danger posed to Soviet allies in Iran. It has been said in Damascus that Islamic Republican officials have assured the government of Al-Asad that the allies of the Soviet Union in Iran are in no danger.

According to observers, it is because of this that communist governments are not the least bit worried about this and that their unofficial criticism has not exceeded a condemnation of hojjatiyeh and allegations against rightist clergymen.

NVOI Assails Establishment of Information Ministry

TA130601 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 12 May 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Once Again Ministry of Information"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: As you are aware, at Monday's open session of the Islamic Majlis, the question of establishing a Ministry of Information was placed on the agenda. After debate and discussion over proposals by the deputies and after explanations by the minister of the interior, the minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the representative of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, six articles of this bill were approved and further discussions were postponed to the next open sessions of the Majlis.

What is the reason for establishing a Ministry of Information now when the 5th year of the revolution's victory has begun? One of the reasons is that officials in charge of affairs are concerned at a sense of increasing discontent by the million-strong masses toward the Islamic Government, which so far has not undertaken the slightest step to implement fundamental reforms. Up to now,the authorities have striven to occupy the people with demagogic slogans and with hollow and groundless promises and to divert their attention from basic issues. But they know that the people, in the process of their daily struggles, are becoming day by day more aware of the deceptions that the authorities are employing by taking advantage of the nation's confidence.

The people are observing that the myth of support for the oppressed has no aim other than to confuse them. Everyone is observing that the revolution's anti-imperialist slogan has been consigned to oblivion and that, in practice, it has lost its real content. Everyone is observing that not only does the government not support the elimination of major capitalism and large landownership, but is trying to maintain and legalize it so that any struggle against exploitation and plunder by capitalism would be regarded as a sin and blasphemy.

On the other hand, to distort the facts and distract public opinion from basic and complex issues of our society, the Islamic Government is continuing the war with the utmost persistence so that it would somehow justify the existing poverty, deprivation, and unemployment. At the same time, it is aware that as a result of the war's prolongation, the people's discontent is increasing daily. The calamitous results of the policy of continuing the war are gradually becoming more obvious and manifest. Only recently Imam Khomeyni himself said that the war is costing several hundred million every day. Naturally, these expenditures have made the situation of the people, who are in the grip of unemployment and poverty, more intolerable than ever. As a result of this war, on the one hand the prosperous stratum and the major capitalists are every day pocketing billions at the expense of looting the people, and on the other hand groups of the sons of these same deprived people are being killed. This is one of the main reasons and factors which has caused the people's protest and discontent.

Nonimplementation of the revolution's goals, deviation from the principles of the Constitution, restriction of the people's freedoms, defense of the rights of major capitalists and large landowners, and the restoration of imperialist domination in various forms have exposed the faces of many of the authorities to a people who for a long time had confidence in them.

It is amid such conditions that the Ministry of Information is being established with the aim of confronting the people's struggle for attaining their rights and fulfilling the revolution's popular and anti-imperialist goals. Those who consider themselves in control of the situation have announced the establishment of such a ministry. Naturally, before making this announcement the organizational tasks of this ministry had also been undertaken.

The government's use of SAVAK dossiers against leaders and members of the Iranian Tudeh Party is an indication of the fact that not only SAVAK employees are engaged in activity in this ministry, but even before announcing its establishment as well they had been employed in implementing the conspiratorial aims of the rightists in the Islamic Government to suppress the true revolutionary forces.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,318

LD171804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Communique No 1,318 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. While humbly congratulating you on the birthday of the intrepid standardbearer of Karbala', the holy Abu al-Fazl — peace be upon him — we bring to your attention a summary of the combat operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the last 24 hours, the Islamic combatants' operations on the southern fronts and in the Wal Fajr operational zone continued with exchanges of artillery and mortar fire. While consolidating and strengthening their positions, our forces fired on the assembly points, fortifications, and supply axes of the Iraqi forces, halting the enemy's ground activities. On the various fronts in that zone, our fire killed or wounded several enemy servicemen and damaged their weapons and equipment.

The Saddamist Army's long-range weapons yesterday destroyed two houses in Abadan.

Yesterday in the western operational zone, our artillery and mortar fire destroyed two enemy tanks, one vehicle, and several trenches and foxholes, set on fire one of their motor parks, and damaged two of their tanks and three of their vehicles.

In reconnaissance and combat missions and patrol operations, our combatants kept all enemy moves under surveillance and pounded the Saddamists' positions and defense lines, inflicting losses and casualties on the aggressor forces.

Yesterday all enemy attempts to violate our airspace were frustrated in time by our air defense units' fire and tactical action taken by the fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Guards Corps Members Sent To Fight 'Zionist' Enemy

LD070940 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Continuing the policy of dispatching our country's Muslim, revolutionary, young people to the warfronts to wage war against the Zionist enemy during the past few days, a large group of members of the Mobilization and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from the cities of Shiraz, Khur, Biabanak, Meybod, Andimeshk, and Bandar (Kangan) have left for the fronts of light against darkness.

Also in order to carry out technical tasks on the fronts and to reconstruct the war-torn regions of our country, other groups of our selfless brothers with various specializations, including maintenance men, drivers of heavy vehicles, builders, electricians, mechanics, plumbers, joiners, welders, blacksmiths, and laborers from the cities of Damghan, Now Shahr, Chalus, and Tonkabon have left for the country's southern and western fronts and to the city of Susangerd.

Radio Iran Claims Drive On for New Recruits

GF081856 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 8 May 83

[Text] Before the extensive propaganda activities of the Islamic Republic in the Iranian schools to dispatch students to the front, which is to take place at the end of the current academic year — these students will cover the frontlines in the form of human waves — efforts to mobilize university students to be dispatched to the fronts has started. This is while the antiwar murmurs in the army and parts of the Guards Corps is changing to a loud voice of complaint.

The warmongering faction of the Guards Corps has asked medical and engineering students and as all graduates to go to the fronts and support the war of the imam's line faction, which it called the war of the Islamic warriors. This request was aired in the revolution guards' radio program today and is part of the efforts of the imam's line faction to start another military action which in the opinion of the political experts is for the sake of regaining the initiative in the power struggle.

Bulgarian Agriculture Minister Arrives 17 May

LD171056 Tehran IRNA in English 0909 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tehran, May 17 (IRNA) — The Bulgarian Agriculture Minister Aleksandur Petkov arrived here this morning as the head of an agricultural delegation and was welcomed at the airport by Agricultural Minister Mohammad Salamati and Commerce Ministry officials.

Petkov said his trip aimed at developing the bilateral agricultural relations, while expressing hope for the augmentation of the two countries connections in various fields.

Salamati said the present cooperations between Iran and Bulgaria were in food and agricultural industries and that Iran could use Bulgarian experiences in livestock breeding, fisheries, and forestry. He voiced hope that the said cooperations would benefit the two nations.

He said that the trip was to continue the implementation of the letter of understanding signed between the two countries last June and to develop the bilateral relations through finding new avenues for reciprocal cooperation.

In conclusion, he said the volume of the exchanges between the two countries in 1361 (1981-2), was more than dollars 400 million, dealing in industry, agriculture, power and roads and transportation.

Nateq-Nuri Introduces New Khorasan Governor

GF171946 Tehran Domestic Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Nateq-Nuri arrived in Mashhad at noon today and attended a meeting of provincial officials. During this meeting, the interior minister lauded the meritorious services rendered by the previous governor-general. He introduced the new governor-general, Mr Kuhpayeh of Khorasan to the audience.

Mr Nateq-Nuri also introduced the new governor-general to Va'ez Tabasi, the imam's deputy and the custodian of the Holy Razavi Shrine, during his visit to the latter today.

Free Voice of Iran Account

GF171944 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Following the surfacing of severe differences between Mullah Tabasi, Khomeyni's deputy in Mashhad who is also the assistant custodian of Holy Razavi Shrine and Khorasan governor, the Khomeyni regime's interior minister removed the governor of the province from his office and appointed Kuhpayeh instead.

The former governor of the province had initiated a series of attacks against Mullah Tabasi, Khomeyni's deputy and [word indistinct] of the province for embezzlement of funds from the holy shrine. After this campaign was launched, Ruhollah Khomeyni asked Nateq-Nuri to remove the Khorasan governor and to appoint Kuhpayeh instead.

According to the latest reports, millions of tumans — the income of Holy Razavi Shrine — have been misappropriated and the Islamic Republic regime of Khomeyni has prevented the exposure of this theft.

Briefs

Fishery Delegation to PRC — Tehran, May 10, IRNA — A nine-member delegation from the Iranian fisheries left Tehran this morning for Beijing. The delegation headed by Agriculture Ministry undersecretary in charge of fisheries Mohammad Mir Mohammad Sadeqi, will visit the Chinese fish cultivation centers and will also meet with Chinese economic officials. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 10 May 83 GF]